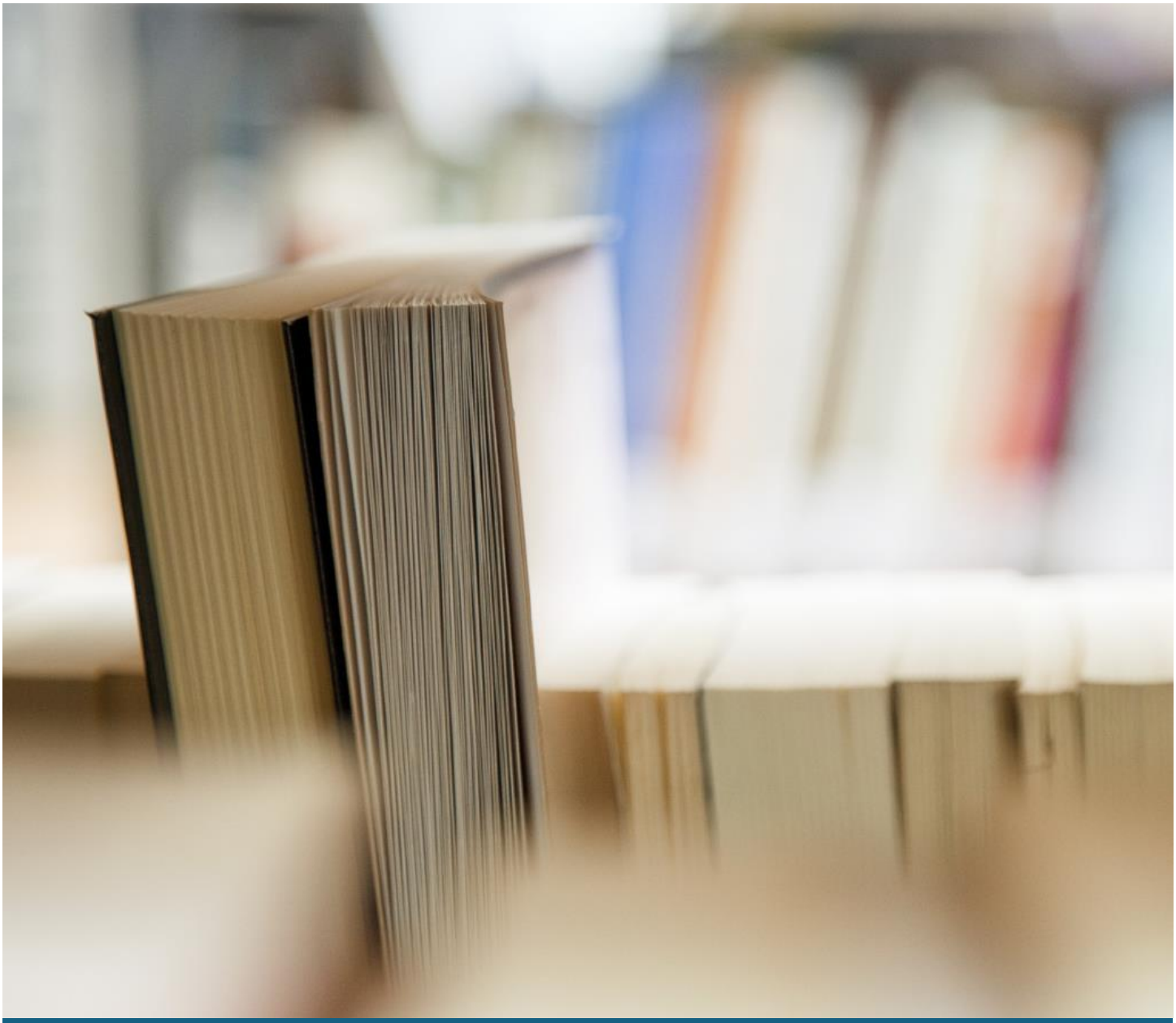

Reflections

Blogs by Sohail Uddin Alavi

Volume One 4/26/25 Karachi, Pakistan

Acknowledgement

Quote, “If only you had said, upon entering your property, ‘This is what Allah has willed! There is no power except with Allah!’ Unquote Quran 18:39

Surely, I have written these blogs by the Will and Taufeeq from Allah Almighty. May Allah accept it and make it a source of cleansing our hearts.

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Allah is One but why He Has many names

In this blog post I will share my understanding as to why Allah Has so many names. Let me make it clear that my knowledge is limited to Quran, so I will confine myself to His names given in Quran only. Although He taught different names in other revelations. Moreover, I shall not comment on the names that followers of polytheistic religions refer to.

Name refers to, "A word or set of words by which a person or thing is known, addressed, or referred to.". This follows that name is simply given as a hypothetical identity to a person or thing for convenience. However, it is not the case with Allah's names. None but Allah Himself Has given His names and are more than for calling Him.

Allah's divine qualities are sovereign, infinite and beyond our comprehension. Hence, it was imperative that Allah introduces Himself with many names to reflect upon His sovereign divine qualities that He may choose to introduce. Having said, each name reflects His unique divine quality that distinguish Him from His creations thus enabling the Humans and Jinns to develop deeper faith in His divinity.

In Quran alone Allah has chosen to introduced 99 names. Such as "Rub ul Alameen" meaning the creator, master and sustainer of all that exist thus the only worthy of worshiping. "Ar Rahman" meaning Merciful and Gracious like none other. "Malik e Umud din" meaning having absolute Authority over the affairs of Judgement day. Likewise, in previous known divine revelations i.e. Torah, Psalm and Bible Allah had introduced His other names. All His names that He taught us cumulatively refer to His sovereign divine qualities. However, it is believed that still mankind does not know His divine qualities in totality but only what He wished for us to know.

Besides Allah's names that He Himself taught us; many other names are given hypothetically by the followers of polytheistic religions on their own. First, since we cannot be sure if such names reflect Allah's true divine qualities. Second ironically, they also use same names to refer to their idols [self-proclaimed gods]. Hence, Allah's sovereignty demands that He should be referred to or invoked only with the names He has taught us in His revelations.

Lastly, the names He taught us in His revelations cannot be translated into other languages but with gross deficiency of their scope and meaning. Hence, it is not fit to use translated names nor right to call Allah with any other hypothetical names.

May Allah keep our faith clean and keep answering our prayers.

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Living to Succeed

Quote, “This worldly life is no more than play and amusement, but far better is the ˹eternal˺ Home of the Hereafter for those mindful ˹of Allah˺. Will you not then understand?” Unquote. Quran 6:32

Quote, “˹Allah is the One˺ Who created death and life in order to test which of you is best in deeds. And He is the Almighty, All-Forgiving.” Unquote Quran 67:2

Quote, “Competition for more ˹gains˺ diverts you ˹from Allah˺, until you reach to your graves. But no! you will soon come to know. Again no! you will soon come to know. Indeed, if you knew you were to know your fate with certainty, you would have acted differently.” Unquote. Quran 105:1-5

Quote, “[People who were mindful of Allah and His religion said to Korah, Qaroon in Arabic] Rather, seek the ˹reward˺ of the Hereafter by means of what Allah has granted [to] you, without forgetting your share of this world. And be good ˹to others˺ as Allah has been good to you. Do not seek to spread corruption in the land, for Allah certainly does not like the corruptors.” Unquote. Quran 28:77

This saying that, “If you walk fast in your life, you will forget to smell the flowers,” explains the dilemma of our modern life. We are so much obsessed with our immediate needs that we lose sight of our purpose in life. Put it differently, achievements in immediate life have become so much urgent and important, which have eclipsed our life purpose.

At the onset, let us apply our mind to understand the concept of the two pivotal terms: “Purpose” and “Goals” and how both are separate yet complimentary to each other. In simplest way one can define purpose as the reason of whatever we do. How is it different from goals? So, goal is an achievement in the short run that may or may not take us closer to our purpose.

The purpose of almost everyone is to become successful in life. Some choose to pursue success by striving in a single direction. Such are the people who might decide to earn more and more money to make their living lavish but not obliging others so no one would oblige them when they would need them the most, not enriching family ties and friendships so no one would be there for them when they would need it the most. We have examples of poets who usually spend their lifetimes for their passion while not striving to earn adequate money to become financially independent nor often bother to fulfill their family responsibilities in a befitting manner. Others might choose to spread themselves evenly in all directions, thus attaining success holistically.

Allah Almighty Has guided us that if we were to be successful in this life and the next life then we should spread ourselves in all directions evenly. Meaning to strive for this life as much is necessary and to strive for the next life as much it demands. Allah further tells us that this life is just a temporary amusement for our trial, while the next life is more valuable. Please refer to Sura Al-An’am verse 32 given above. Taking heed from this, it is imperative for success to contain one’s needs in his life and not to pursue luxuries for it will force us to spend entire lives seeking more

and more money while failing to strive in the path of Allah and earn the comforts of next life. Allah has warned us in this regard in Sura Takasur. Please refer to the verses 1 – 5 given above.

Nevertheless, Allah does not want us to deny His bounties in this life. He rather encourages us to strive to earn in a morally permissible [Halal] manner to fulfil our responsibilities instead of seeking help from others. He, however, tells us not to follow our lust and desires but to earn for the necessities and to strive in the path of Allah too. In Sura Qasas in verse 77 we are guided to spend in Allah's path while not forgetting our share in this life. Please refer to the verse given above.

Conclusion

Our contemporary lives are dominantly focused on earning money. We educate; we seek jobs; even we socialize to increase our earning potential. Businesses are all out to maximize their wealth alone. This paradigm does not leave us to pursue anything else in our lives.

If we were to be successful holistically, we surely need to apply time management in our lives. We need to contain our engagement in careers and businesses and pursue activities for which Allah has created us and ordained us to do – establish His kingdom, spread His teachings, establish justice and morality, save the oppressed, save ourselves and others from the Hell, last but not the least be the catalyst for change.

Performing five pillars of worshiping Allah is indeed noble and brings us closer to Allah. But allow me to say, all this is reduced to rituals if each of us do not practically establish Allah's order in our lives and in the world.

https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/living-succeed-alavi-sohailuddin-aixec

Islam and Morality

The subject of morality deals with individuals' actions; people to people actions and interaction with the environment including animals. Morality is defined as good conduct. In other words, it draws a line between what is right and what is not. Fundamental principles of morality have existed since the beginning of human race. Islam is the divine guidance sent for the benefit of human race through all the Prophets pbut.

> Quote, ˹Remember˺ when your Lord said to the angels, "I am going to place a successive ˹human˺ authority on earth." They asked ˹Allah˺, "Will You place in it someone who will spread corruption there and shed blood while we glorify Your praises and proclaim Your holiness?" Allah responded, "I know what you do not know." He taught Adam the names of all things, then He presented them to the angels and said, "Tell Me the names of these, if what you say is true?" They replied, "Glory be to You! We have no knowledge except what You have taught us. You are truly the All-Knowing, All-Wise." Allah said, "O Adam! Inform them of their names." Then when Adam did, Allah said, "Did I not tell you that I know the secrets of the heavens and the earth, and I know what you reveal and what you conceal?" Unquote. Quran 2:30-33

From the above verses, the very purpose of morality is to avert corruption and shedding unwarranted blood, as the angels raised their doubts about human race. So, Allah made morality innate in the human race by transferring knowledge to Prophet Adam *pbuh* and to the rest of us through him. Later research unraveled the fact that morality is innate.

Islam consists of faith and morality. Many ask this question that if morality had existed since the beginning, then why divine teachings (Islam) was needed to reintroduce morality. Indeed, it looks plausible that Islam was not needed to reintroduce morality. But the fact is as humanity evolved, the principles of morality also evolved from absolute to political right and wrong. We have examples of nations who consider euthanasia; abortion; usuary; even bribe and what not as morally correct actions though all these have been immoral acts at one point in time. So long the majority is involved, the action becomes automatically correct.

Islamic teachings that successive prophets *pbut* had been taught by Allah had established once and for all the legitimate principles of morality for humanity. The actions mentioned above and many more were prohibited in all the divine revelations – *Torah, Psalm, Injeel and Quran*.

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Towards True Humanity

In most popular description, humanity is living in harmony with other people and being kind to each other. According to this, humanity is premised on harmony and kindness. Harmony is to recognize the rights of other people – right to survival, security, dignity, to know, to choose to have opinion and last but not the least to progress. Kindness is about going an extra mile to do favors unto each other especially the weak, aged, ailing and the needy people.

Humanity is often described parallel to religion. Having said, it is assumed that if peoples' conduct is humane religion is not required, for religion or to be exact religions cause conflicts amongst nations. However, the major deficiency in this narrative is that it ignores the very foundation of humanity i.e. a premise or a frame of reference for morality that is needed to identify what is virtuous and what is not. In the absence of this, freewheeling becomes the norm. Consequently, rationalization eclipses rationality and objective reasoning is replaced with logic. Acts that were once virtuous can become otherwise and acts that were once considered immoral can become acceptable norms. In short, political will precedes true wisdom.

Having said, the role of a religion becomes increasingly important to provide rational standards and objective reasoning of virtuous conduct – humanity. In fact, most of the religions guide its followers on acting humane or when they boarder inhumane transactions. However, one has reason to say that unless religion is founded on divine truth and with a holistic perspective only then it can instill rationality and its standards driving humanity which can sustain in the changing world otherwise it is likely that humanity would turn into a ritual and a personal choice.

It is time to talk about Islam as an all-time religion. It is more humane than humanity. It is so because no other religion provides a robust mechanism to provide for human dignity – bow to none but Almighty Allah alone, equality – equal status for men and women, mandates kindness – special care and consideration for the elderly and needy, up hold justice – a mechanism of reward and punishment, compassion – urge to forgiveness and favors unto each other, and finally salvation for the entire mankind – guides to the heaven and saves from the hell fire. It is so because Islam in its purest form is the true divine religion. Judaism and Christianity have their origin in Islam. Last but not the least, Islam is a way of life that conforms to innate morals and builds a positive connection of this life with the eternal life.

Its proponents include Prophets pbut and their respective nations, who include Prophet Ibrahim pbuh and his successive lineage, Prophet Mosa pbuh and his nation i.e. Children of Israel. Prophet Essa pbuh and his disciples. And finally, the last Prophet Muhammad pbuh and his followers. However, with a lot of caution let me say that serious dichotomies have come up in the beliefs and practices of these nations in present times. Of the most important is the fact that they have developed bias against their respective Prophet pbuh and other Prophets and they have lost sight of their common origin.

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Subjectivity vs Objectivity

Quote, "Verily there are signs for the wise in the creation of the heavens and the earth, and in the change of day and night." These are the people who remember Allah while standing, sitting and lying down, pondering over the creation of the heavens and the earth and praying, "Our Lord, You have not created Him without purpose." Be your glory! Save us from the punishment of Hell. Unquote. Qur'an 3:190-191

Allah Almighty Has created this universe and beyond on objective premise, otherwise there would not have been so much discipline and balance. However, we continue to toggle between subjectivity and objectivity in our lives. Subjectivity advocates preferences and choices, while objectivity offers black-and-white alternatives: something is either right or wrong. It is important to take an objective approach in dealing with the realities and facts, while there are some actions that are primarily subjective in nature. Before we discuss subjectivity versus objectivity further, let us first explain what these words mean in literal terms.

Subjectivity refers to a perception and action that follows, based on or influenced by a person's belief or personal feelings, tastes, opinions or choices. Objectivity, on the contrary, refers to a perception and action that follows based on submission to the established facts, however, apparent or hidden.

Paradoxically, the dilemma arises when we consider realities and facts in a subjective way. Put it in other words, our perceptions get grossly distorted and actions go astray when we deal with realities and facts from a subjective orientation. For example, if people use subjectivity in dealing with bare facts like purpose of life, morality, love, etc., it is very much likely that the perception would be differ from person to person reflecting their respective assumptions. It is so because their perception would be based on their personal preferences and choices while denying observable facts. A similar course would follow in judging people on the basis of their faces and attire. However, focusing on their knowledge, skills, etc. makes the perception more objective.

Cultures that are primarily based on subjectivity advocate individualism and promote preferences and choices over submission to universal realities. It also undermines the distinction between right and wrong, for an action could be seen right by a person but the other person would consider it wrong. Hence, promotes the right to choose in matters that must be dealt with objectively. It also encourages convenience driven values and lust driven lifestyle over pursuing life and career with a clarity of true purpose and discipline.

Ironically, however, subjectivity is being promoted over objectivity by tagging choices as basic human rights and an important indicator of poverty. Although people should have choices, what is disturbing is that even in submitting to the realities to which one must accept for his or her own advantage, people are encouraged to make choices. For instance, a person can choose to have a gender of his or her choice despite the gender he or she was born with. This is nothing but living in denial or self-defiance. (https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/subjectivity-vs-objectivity-alavi-sohailuddin-48y0e)

Divine and Cultural Wisdom: Exploring believers' dichotomy

Indeed, Allah is All-Knowing, All-Wise [Quran 76:30]. O believers! Do not proceed ˹in any matter˺ before ˹a decree from˺ Allah and His Messenger. And fear Allah. Surely Allah is All-Hearing, All-Knowing [Quran 49:01].

If we faith we should know with conviction that Allah's wisdom is best of all, so is His words and speech. Prophet pbuh does not utter from his own but the words of Allah. Having said, unless our wisdom is derived from Allah's wisdom (words and speech) and Prophet's sunnah it may be philosophy, logic, rationalization or lame argument but is not true and does not worth it. Rather such a thinking astray a man.

The Believers' Dichotomy

As we live, we rationalize and speak from our own heads that often overrides Allah's wisdom, our faith. Yet, we value it wiser than Allah's words or at least equal to. Even more sadly, rhetorically we use words like "Jazzak Allah, Alhamdolillah, etc." to thank all those who wow to our freewheeling. The above comparison reflects our dichotomy.

A comparison of selected contours of wisdom: Divine vs. cultural dimensions: -

	Divine Wisdom	Cultural Wisdom
Human Beings	˹Remember˺ when your Lord said to the angels, "I am going to place a Caliph [successive authority] on earth." [Quran 2:30] Indeed, We created humans in the best form. [Quran 95:4] Allah asked, "O Iblîs! What prevented you from prostrating to what I created with My Own Hands? Did you ˹just˺ become proud? Or have you always been arrogant?" [Quran 38:75]	Another living species evolved from other species over time.
Life	Allah says, "I did not create jinn and humans except to worship Me." Quran 51:56 "He [Allah] is the One Who created death and life to test which of you is best in deeds. And He is the Almighty, All-Forgiving." [Quran 67:2]	Life gives the right to choose and do what brings happiness and success. Life is filled with sufferings [Buddha].
Success	Allah says, "By the Time! Humanity is [definitely] in grave loss [are doomed], except those who have faith and do righteous, and exhort one another to Truth [Haq], and exhort one another to Perseverance [Sabaar]." Sura Asr As for the Abode of the Hereafter, We shall assign it exclusively for those who do not seek glory on earth nor want to cause mischief. The God-fearing shall have the best end. [Quran 28:83] Competition for more ˹gains˺ diverts you ˹from Allah˺, until you end up in ˹your˺ graves. But no! You will soon come to know. [Quran 102:1-3] Woe to every backbiter, slanderer, who amasses wealth ˹greedily˺ and counts it ˹repeatedly˺, thinking that their wealth will make them immortal! Not at all! Such a person will certainly be tossed into the Crusher. [Quran 104: 1-4]	Wealth Power Status Following
Rewards [Bounties]	Do they not know that Allah gives abundant or limited provisions to whoever He wills. Surely in	One gets it by his or her knowledge, hard work, and luck.

	this are signs for people who have faith. [Quran 39:52] He [Karun] replied, “I have been granted all this because of some knowledge I have.” Did he not know that Allah had already destroyed some from the generations before him who were far superior to him in power and greater in accumulating ˹wealth˺? [Quran 28:78]	
Tribulations	Allah says, “We will certainly test you with a touch of fear and famine and loss of property, life, and crops. Give good news to those who patiently endure.” [Quran 2:155] ˹They will be told,˺ “This is ˹the return˺ for what your hands have done. And Allah is never unjust to ˹His˺ creation.” [Quran 22:10]	Curse Bad luck Miscalculations
Change	Indeed, Allāh will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in Hearts – arrogance, lust and desires, etc. [13:11]	Pursue dreams Set goals Change life habits

Conclusion

By divorcing divine and worldly pursuits, we have compartmentalized our knowledge: While we restrict divine wisdom within the religious realms, we do freewheeling and follow cultural wisdom in our worldly pursuits. In short, we sail in two boats which are taking us in opposite directions. It is time for a true believer to think and to overcome the living dichotomy.

https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/divine-cultural-wisdom-exploring-believers-dichotomy-sohailuddin-pmx6e

Hypocrisy in Modern Times

Hypocrisy has creeped into modern day life with a fresh look – tactfulness, self-interest and what not. It is blatant acts of immorality such as deception, foul play and unreliable behavior. Indeed, it reflects upon people's unfaithful and characterless personalities. Allah Almighty exposes the hypocrites. Here are some references from the Quran about them: -

1. Quote, "When the hypocrites come to you ˹O Prophet pbuh˺, they say, "We bear witness that you are certainly the Messenger of Allah"—and surely Allah knows that you are His Messenger—but Allah bears witness that the hypocrites are truly liars. They have made their ˹false˺ oaths as a shield, hindering ˹others˺ from the Way of Allah. Evil indeed is what they do! This is because they believed and then abandoned faith. Therefore, their hearts have been sealed, so they do not comprehend. When you see them, their appearance impresses you. And when they speak, you listen to their ˹impressive˺ speech. But they are ˹just˺ like ˹worthless˺ planks of wood leaned ˹against a wall˺. They think every cry is against them. They are the enemy, so beware of them. May Allah condemn them! How can they be deluded ˹from the truth˺? When it is said to them, "Come! The Messenger of Allah will pray for you to be forgiven," they turn their heads ˹in disgust˺, and you see them ˹O Prophet˺ turn away in arrogance." Unquote. [Al Munafequn 63:1-5]

2. Quote, "The hypocrites, both men and women, are alike: They encourage what is evil, forbid what is good, and withhold ˹what is in˺ their hands. They neglected Allah, so He neglected them. Surely the hypocrites are the rebellious." Unquote. [At Tawbah 9:67]

3. Quote, "Surely the hypocrites will be in the lowest depths of the Hell Fire—and you will never find for them any helper." Unquote. [Al Nisa 4:145]

Characteristics of Hypocrites

a. They say what they do not mean

b. They deceive by lying and pretending

c. They proclaim faith or a position but act against it.

d. They do evil, refrain from good, and do not help [cooperate].

e. When they are asked to speak, they speak nothing but a lie.

f. They are arrogant and take pride in their otherwise immoral behaviors.

Paradoxically, in modern times such behavior is encouraged and justified both in the social and professional settings as a norm to be tactful and to protect and secure personal interests. This leads to a situation where there is no trustworthiness, certainty of responses, fair transactions and last but not the least honest relationships. It is because they neither have hope for good nor fear of punishment – nor have faith and nor believe in the day of judgment.

In short, hypocrites may do favors, oblige and appreciate not out of sincerity but for their ulterior motives – they are double faced and stab from behind. They deceive others for their personal gains. They are the ones who compromise their principles, bigger purpose and abuse others' interests for their personal gains. They take pride in their dishonest behavior and consider acting sincerely and honestly as a sign of weakness and cowardness.

We need to be alert to such people and their actions. May Allah save us from the toxic actions of hypocrites and acting hypocritically.

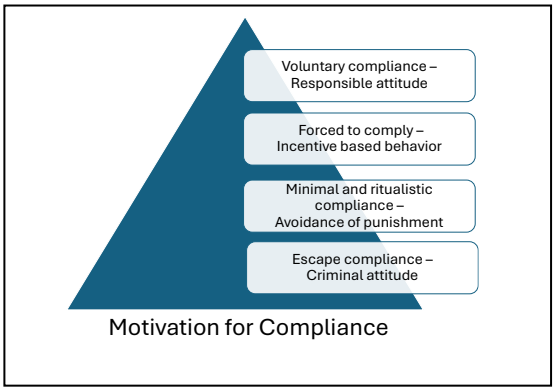
https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/hypocrisy-modern-times-alavi-sohailuddin-jluae

Responsible Living through Compliance
Motivation for Compliance Theory

Discipline is the key word for harnessing individuals' actions. The very purpose of discipline is to instill certainty and sustainability of a system. What does discipline mean? Unlike the misnomer that discipline is subordinating one's rights to another person's rights usually superior in position or status, discipline is a standard of behavior that conforms to ethos of the individuals or laws and rules given in a system – religion, institution and social setting. As the definition states, discipline can be thought of as an internal stimulus – faith and ethos – or require external stimuli like religious dos and don'ts, country's laws, institutional policies, etc.

Stronger the faith and commitment to ethos stimulate automatic compliance. Likewise, more effective the controls are in a system, better compliance is achieved. In this short analysis, we will discuss intricacies of compliance. In other words, what stimulates different individuals to comply.

Each individual and perhaps society has different motivations to comply within the system. Here we draw insights from the theory of Moral Development by Lawrence Kohlberg [1958], for developing compliance theory, called "Motivation for Compliance Theory".


Voluntary compliance – Responsible attitude
Forced to comply – Incentive based behavior
Minimal and ritualistic compliance – Avoidance of punishment
Escape compliance – Criminal attitude
Motivation for Compliance

At the bottom of the pyramid is group of individuals who escape compliance by hook or crook. It would not be wrong to refer to them having criminal attitude. Next is the group of individuals who somehow comply at the minimal or act ritualistically only to avoid punishment. Third category of individuals consists of people who find themselves in a compulsion to comply. Fourth and the last group of individuals are cognizant of their responsibility and demonstrate voluntary compliance.

Let us now look at the factors that contribute to each type of compliance behavior. Those who escape compliance are either ignorant of the rationality of compliance or deliberately escape compliance for their personal advantage or sometimes simple gratification. Their actions are, however, criminal and should be dealt with accordingly.

As the escapists find it difficult to avoid compliance, they resort to minimum compliance or where possible perform some rituals to show their compliance although it is not. These individuals are just a new face of escapists.

As the external system becomes more effective, individuals follow rules and regulations out of fear. Though they often comply but it entails direct control, absolute authority and commitment of the regulator to ensure compliance. For instance, "Individuals may not be so compliant of others' rights, pay taxes, adhere to traffic rules and last but not the least follow the law in their native

country. However, as soon as they move to a new country where controls are practically very effective, their behavior is immediately modified."

Individuals who grow with a faith on the system and a sense of responsibility know that compliance is not just a requirement but a rational necessity that they need to follow. Such are the people who are self-regulated and demonstrate responsible behavior.

Fostering compliance is a challenge in many cultures. It usually warrants a multi-pronged intervention: -

a. Develop an equitable, rational, transparent and just system.
b. Develop rational outlook and value for discipline in the minds of individuals. This needs to be started from the early educational careers.
c. Recognize compliance by individuals in a positive way.
d. Put in place robust controls to check against potential and actual violators. While this will punish the actual violators, it will also work as a strong deterrent for the potential violators. Crime rate in Saudi Arabia for instance is at minimum compared to other secular nations, all because of their effective control system.

Conclusion

Compliance is necessary for the sustainability of social and corporate systems and justice at large. Mainly, a society or institution should strive to develop a rational perspective of their people towards compliance culture along side establish robust control mechanism to check real or potential violators and to avert escape.

Building Emotional Quotient

Emotions have always been considered as positive and negative feelings. Such as, love and hate; joy and despair; affinity and distant; fair and bias; empathy and apathy. People who followed their emotions in making decision and in their actions were tagged "emotional", which was in a way an indication of weaker personality. On the other side, people who keep their emotions detached from their behaviors were described with notions like insensitive, inhumane and mechanistic. Put it in simple words, emotions were once thought to be deterrents in leading a balanced life, until the research on EQ made a paradigm shift in this perception.

Before we discuss the findings of EQ research, it will be interesting to refer of divine scriptures which emphasize the role of heart as the Centre of our decisions and actions. The locus of emotions happens to be the heart not the mind. This indicates that emotions have a significant impact on our personalities.

The famous research on the power of emotions [EQ] by Danial Goleman published in 1995, diverted the world's attention to the subject, hitherto it was just Intellectual Quotient. Subsequently, it became most talked about topics and many followed writing on Emotional Quotient. In this short article let us first explore what exactly EQ stands for and what its role is in our lives is. Then we shall talk about how it can be developed.

The famous experiment, "The researcher one day visited a school and distributed candies to the toddlers of KG class. He offered them that he would come again and give more candies to those who would not eat these candies. Next day he came again and to his surprise except a few all had eaten the candies. Nevertheless, he was able to identify his target group – those who did not eat the candies.

- They believed in what the researcher told him about his future action,
- They controlled their impulses with patience,
- They maintained hope that more candies will follow tomorrow.

He followed those kids for over a period of thirty years through their lives from childhood into professional careers. He found that those who did not eat the candies demonstrated belief, patience and hope through their lives and made balanced decisions."

The research provided newer insights into what matters in leading a successful life. The key words are belief (conviction on the future); patience (self-regulation); and hope (ability to endure hardships today believing that tomorrow is going to be better).

A strong emotional quotient often contributes to building several behavioral skills such as…

a. Highly self-regulated and disciplined
b. Ease of embracing situations on as-is basis
c. Maintaining realism and persistence in difficult times
d. Higher chances of making balanced decisions and rational choices

e. Ability to face negative criticism and feedback, and to improve upon
f. Ability to gel-in and work with people of diverse values and backgrounds

Having described the EQ, it is time to explore the second question: Can it be developed? The simple answer is that it is easier said than done. Building EQ characteristics is a function of our heart rather than mind. Having said, it entails taming the heart – instincts. In common terms it is about cleansing the heart from disbelief, greed, impulsive vibes, despondency, fear of losing, impatience, etc. In religious terminology it is called, "Tazkia e Nafs". It is a lifelong learning process.

A quick self-assessment questionnaire follows. You may like to check your power of emotions: -

EQ - Self Assessment

Statements	Always	Often	Sometimes	Never
I tend to rely on others when they make a promise, even if they are strangers				
I accept when someone tells me about a fact, I did not know				
I follow others when they tell me to do something				
Once I make a resolve, I stick to it no matter how difficult it might be				
I prefer to follow my principles even if I have to lose				
I do not change my plans if I have to wait for long for the rewards				
I do not feel despair if I don't get the right outcome				
I am able to compromise my today for a brighter tomorrow				
I always envision a brighter future, even if my present is too bleak				

Put a tick in the column that represents your usual action.

Scoring: Reference [Col. 1 = 4, 2 = 3, 3 = 2, and 5 = 1].

Determine the aggregate score =

Break your score in three clusters

a. Line 1 to 3 =
b. Line 4 to 6 =
c. Line 7 to 9 =
   Sum of your scores in a + b + c should tally with your aggregate score.

DO NOT READ BELOW THIS LINE, UNTIL YOU HAVE FILLED YOUR RESPONSES AND CALCULATED THE SCORES. IT WILL MAKE YOUR ASSESSMENT MORE VALID.

Interpretation:

- Higher aggregate score represents a higher EQ and vice versa.
- Higher score in [a] represents higher belief quotient
- Higher score in [b] represents higher hope quotient
- Higher score in [c] represents higher patience quotient

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Self-Empowerment: Uncovering the Hidden Spot

Allah has created mankind as the most superior of all creations *Quote, "Indeed, We [Allah] created humans in the best form." Quran 95:4 Unquote.* And empowered them by giving complete knowledge of everything. *Quote "And He taught Adam the names [conveyed the knowledge] - all of them." Quran 2:31. Unquote.* And equip them with knowledge and gave them skills to communicate. *Quote, "The Most Compassionate, taught the Quran, created humanity, ˹and˺ taught them speech." Quran 55:2-4. Unquote.*

This follows that Allah has bestowed infinite capabilities to the mankind [men and women], which is evident from the humongous developments mankind has attained and is continuing to do so. What really inhibits individuals from exceling are their misleading beliefs and values, toxic habits and faulty perceptions. *Quote, "Verily Allah does not change a people's condition unless they change their inner selves." Quran 13:11 Unquote.*

In each of our personalities, there are aspects that are unknown to our own selves and others thus keep us unaware of and sometimes fool us about our own selves – *the hidden spot about us*. Joseph Luft and Harrington Ingham, two American psychologists, created the Johari Window in 1955. The Johari Window is a model that helps people understand their own and others' personalities. It's a tool that can help with self-development and giving feedback. The model is based on the idea that people can learn more about themselves by observing how others perceive them. There are four quadrants in this model, but we shall focus on the "hidden spot" alone.

The hidden spot about our own selves is that we lack knowledge about our own selves hence our perception does not always reflect true us. To elaborate this concept, let us say we continue to live with disbelief and misconceptions for we do not know but we think we know; we have potentials but we seldom unleash them for we remain naïve of them; we have habits but we never realize how toxic these are for others so we never bother changing them. The consequence is obvious, we live in a state of daydreaming. It alters our self-image, self-esteem and confidence for worse. Moreover, we keep denying need for any positive change or improvement.

In a competitive life, it is utterly important that one must keep correcting and improving one's beliefs, values, habits and knowledge to keep up, face challenges and embrace their destinies successfully. This is not blindly following others but developing a pragmatic and reasoned approach in one's life.

How to avert the hidden spot and develop more objective perception of our own selves? The positive side of hidden spot about our own selves is that if something is hidden completely than at least some of it is known to others – parents, siblings, spouse, friends, mentors and teachers, seniors and even sometimes the strangers who happen to observe you perform.

Unknown to Self and Others – Explore, learn and improve are sure ways to overcome it. Explore spot about life and yourself through divine revelations, sound reasoning, and learning from others.

Learn through introspection, listen to more knowledgeable, read and gain experience. Improve through trying new things and accepting challenges but in a systematic way.

Known to Others – Listening to others, asking for constructive feedback, improving sensitivity to others are a few ways to get a clearer perception of our own selves. This too is an effective way to gain objective understanding about oneself. Managerial Grid training model developed by Robert R. Blake and Jane S. Mouton in 1960s is a classic example of developing self-awareness.

Conclusion: Change begins from inside out.

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Diversity, Equality and Inclusion: Myths and Realities

Allah says, “Indeed, We created humans [women and men] in the best form.” Noble Quran 95:4. Mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, wives and husbands are identified with genders. But leaders, entrepreneurs, intrapreneurs, influencers, mentors, students, etc. have no gender: they all are individuals. Bibi Maryum was miraculously a single mother, who raised a noble Prophet pbuh. Amma Khadija, wife of our beloved Prophet Muhammad pbuh was a bigtime entrepreneur and a loyal partner [wife] of our Prophet pbuh. Likewise, there have been numerous high achievers amongst women in the world history.

Having said, the need for gender equality cannot be over emphasized, for both genders naturally complement each other hence essential participants in a family, community and workplace. However, alongside the reality a lot of myths surround the subject of gender equality. In this short analysis I will discuss the subject from the reality vs. myths.

There is no second opinion about the fact that everyone innately has equal rights in general, without bias and discrimination. Before we advocate the equality of rights amongst genders from a realistic perspective, it is appropriate to talk about the rights first. By very definition, rights refer to a host of entitlements that a person avails. Some rights are fundamentally equal by virtue of being a human (man or a woman), usually referred to as the innate rights. Such as right to survival, security, dignity, to know, to choose to have opinion and last but not the least to progress. Besides, there are certain rights which are linked to the roles. The very rationale of role-based rights is to empower individuals within their given roles and foster discipline in a group. These rights by very nature vary from individual to individual in relation to their roles, irrespective of the genders. For example, within a family, community or workplace individuals must have appropriate rights to act amicably according to their roles, however, need for coordination and command cannot be denied. Therefore, individuals are organized in such a manner that one reports to the other and ultimately there is a need for an overall command. Having said, role-based rights are always equitable not equal.

Roles are assigned to individuals according to the individuals’ respective capacities and the organizational need for command and control. Here it is interesting to note that roles will reflect different levels of authority amongst individuals, however, it does not create status incongruence. Although mistakenly often individuals’ status is identified with roles and rights are defined by status.

Having discussed the concept of rights in general, let us now consider gender in the scheme of rights. Unless someone wishes to deny fact, genders are different by their physical and emotional make-up. Hence to foster synergy and avert dysfunctional competition within a group, it is necessary to acknowledge the respective strengths of both genders and to consider it complimentary to each other. Here, it advocates maintaining natural diversity amongst genders by assigning roles commensurate with their respective strengths. However, there is no basis to creating status incongruence amongst the two.

A brief review of complementing strengths of Women and Men

- Women and men are equally capable of progressing
- Women and men equally moral in their conduct
- Women are more sensitive to others' feelings and emotions, hence can relate, empathize and communicate better with others. Men are more rational and less sensitive to emotions, hence can relate and communicate more rationally.
- Women are more likely to succumb to coercion and harassment, hence can be manipulated in difficult situations affecting their free conduct. Men usually resist coercion and harassment with relative ease, hence are less vulnerable to manipulation in difficult situation and can conduct themselves freely.
- Women can bear lesser levels of stress, hence their performance easily affected in stressful situations. Men are more capable of forbearing higher levels of stress; hence their performance remains steady even in stressful situations.
- Women are relatively weak by their physique, hence it is difficult for them to sustain harsh conditions without compromising their physical and psychological health. Men have tougher physique, hence they sustain harsher working conditions with relative ease and without compromising their physical and psychological health for a longer period of time.
-

Policy Proposal

In view of the above, I propose this policy on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: -

a. Organizational synergy shall be optimized through systematic inclusion of women and men.
b. Both women and men shall avail equal status and rights, though their roles shall be different.
c. Work interdependences of women and men shall be designed to complement each other. Competition amongst women and men shall be averted to the extent possible.
d. Glass ceilings shall be removed and equal opportunity shall be offered to both women and men, keeping in view their respective advantage / strength.

Conclusion

This perception that women and men are equal in absolute terms is a myth and undermines their respective strengths that once recognized can lead to real time synergy through natural diversity. Fostering interdependencies amongst women and men is more synergetic than a culture where one gender strives to prevail on the other. Women and men have equal rights. However, role-based rights may vary for women and men depending on their respective strengths, but by no means the difference is indicative of status incongruence – women being of lesser status.

P.S. Glaringly a different perspective on DEI. The aim is to complement the existing knowledge on the subject rather than negating it. Comments are solicited from valued members.

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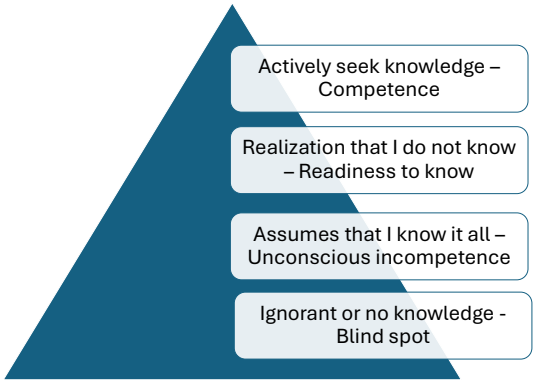
Knowledge is the Foundation of Success

"Those blind ˹to the truth˺ (the ignorant) and those who can see (the knowledgeable) are not equal, nor are those who have faith and do good ˹equal˺ to those who do evil. Yet you are hardly mindful." [Quran 40:58].

Those who know have an edge over those who do not know. Knowledge turns ignorance into informed. Informed persons tend to hold realistic perspective on their beliefs, people, and situations, and last but not the least the future scenario. They are better aware of themselves and their surroundings. They are likely to make judicious and balanced decisions and act objectively and fairly. Their response and reaction are likely to be more unbiased and less emotional. There is higher pragmatism and less intuition in their plans and strategies. Etc.

Beliefs are assumptions deeply rooted in cultures, carried forward from generation to generation. A belief can neither be generalized as always reflecting truth or refuted at the onset being totally absurd and untrue. For example, morality, honesty, modesty, etc. are true virtues; no none can deny this belief. At the same time, a lot of assumptions that are considered a belief are not true. Such as many superstitions prevalent in culture are mere false assumptions and carry no weight – No.13 is bad luck, etc. Beliefs when blind are emotional dispositions. For example, people have emotional stances vis-à-vis their family values and traditions. The ignorant persons usually follow blindfolded beliefs – deep-rooted assumptions – while the knowledgeable person takes a pragmatic view.

The informed persons seek knowledge through a learning process before they develop conviction or faith. Knowledge obtained through a learning process is facts unearthed and accepted. For example, knowledge about the universe and its creation, the beginning of life, the inevitability of death, laws of physics and chemistry, etc. builds our conviction on science.


Actively seek knowledge – Competence
Realization that I do not know – Readiness to know
Assumes that I know it all – Unconscious incompetence
Ignorant or no knowledge - Blind spot
Stages of Knowing

A person goes through various stages in the process of learning and acquiring knowledge. Typically, the pre-learning stage is ignorance. It is also called the "Blind spot", where a person has no knowledge. Then comes the next stage, which is characterized by "Unconscious Incompetence" This was first talked about by Prof Abraham Maslow, a Psychologist. He explained that a person

may consider that he or she has the knowledge but in reality, it is not true. Having said that, he does not get ready to learn until he has this realization that he does not know – referred to as reality shock. For example, a child would think that riding a bicycle is simple until he makes his first attempt to ride it and falls. Realization is the third stage in the learning sequence. Here the person finds out that he does not know and prepares to search for knowledge rather new knowledge. This moves him to the fourth stage where he or she actively seeks knowledge all the time. Besides the realization, one has to develop an interest and explicit need for knowledge that motivates him for seeking knowledge.

The Knowledge Seeking Paradigm

A person tells a story, to which either we may believe it as true or not true. Our belief remains dormant or blind until we discover its truth. Learning is the basis for discovering the truth which would lead to either accepting of a belief with conviction or denying it altogether. Our quest for knowledge does not stop here. Subsequently, we seek the physical evidence of it with our open eyes or through objective reasoning, but not logic – seeing is believing. As the learning process advances, our belief turns into faith. In the following verses, Almighty has guided us on the learning process, which validates our stated learning trajectory. In the noble Quran: -

- Allah says, “This is the Book! There is no doubt about it—a guide for those mindful ˹of Allah˺, who believe in the unseen, establish prayer, and donate from what We have provided for them, and who believe in what has been revealed to you ˹O Prophet˺ and what was revealed before you, and have sure faith in the Hereafter. It is they who are ˹truly˺ guided by their Lord, and it is they who will be successful. [Quran 2:2-5]
- Indeed, this is the absolute truth (Belief). [Quran 56:95]
- Indeed, if you were to know (Learn) ˹your fate˺ with certainty, ˹you would have acted differently˺. [Quran 102:5]
- ˹But˺ you will surely see the Hellfire (Get evidence). Again, you will surely see it with the eye of certainty. [Quran 102:6-7]

At the onset, we should accept the unseen and not deny it outrightly – *Believing*. Then with the belief at the back of mind, we should try to find its plausibility by searching for evidence; applying objective reasoning; and by joining of the dots – *learning*. If the belief was a fact or an assumption in both cases it will become clear. Finally, we should look for cues (evidence) to further validate or reject the belief – *seeing*. A successful learning process turns the belief into conviction (faith). Ironically, when we outrightly reject something, we then fail to learn except rationalizing our disbelief or denial. “Indeed, Allah does not guide the people who disbelieve (deny).” [Quran 5:67]

The above guidance has direct relation with our acceptance of a reality in our daily lives. So many of us keep denying that they are on the wrong trajectory in our spiritual lives, personal lives, social lives, studies, and professions, which would carry us and to our careers to failures until it happens. But then often we do not have a reversal. Almighty warns all such people in Sura Asr, as follows:

“By the ˹passage of˺ time! Surely humanity is in ˹grave˺ loss, except those who have faith, do good, and urge each other to the truth, and urge each other to perseverance.” [Quran 103]

Moral: Always seek to learn and stay open to accepting truth!

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Energy of Gratitude

Closing eyes to reality is a most dangerous pitfall that leads us to the blind spot in life. Blind spot is a dimension of our life that is unknown to us. When we are unaware of what we can and what we cannot do, our perception moves from reality to wishful thinking. With this kind of deception in our hearts, we become thankless; less humane; live in a world of fantasies; and what not. In short, we get into the trap of denying, pride, arrogance and most harmful of all stubbornness. Moving away from reality is a sure recipe for a disaster.

> Quote, "He [Karun] replied, I have been granted all this because of some knowledge I have. Did he not know that Allah had already destroyed some from the generations before him who were far superior to him in power and greater in accumulating ˹wealth˺? There will be no need for the wicked to be asked about their sins." Unquote. Quran 28:78

> Quote, "Then We caused the earth to swallow him up, along with his home. There was no one to help him against Allah, nor could he even help himself." Unquote. Quran 28:81

Humongous examples of such people abound in our modern times. People die due to diseases caused by their reckless lifestyle, for they live in denial. Successful businesses collapse when the owners follow their wishful thinking. Often good teams fall flat in the field, when they play with a pride that they are the best – the age-old story of rabbit and turtle is a marvelous reflection of pride. Last but not the least, such people hear but refuse to listen to the criticism, however constructive it may be, thus show no improvement in their actions. In short, they live with deception of reality hence never behave pragmatically.

> Quote, "Then which of your Rub's favors will you ˹humans and jinn˺ both deny?" Unquote. Quran. 55:13

Habit of gratitude is the most powerful of all, which can help overcome false beliefs and self-deception and move into the realm of reality. How does it work is explained below.

The universe and all that exists in it have not come into being on their own but have been the result of the mindful creation of Rub ul Alameen. Having said, everything that happens in our lives and around us is decreed by Rub ul Alameen. He is the one who creates opportunities in the environment, gives us knowledge and power to pursue and guides us towards the righteous. Nevertheless, many of us keep denying His favors unto us and follow not His guidance. Such are the people who proclaim that whatever they have earned is because of their will and solo efforts.

> Quote, "Allah is the Light [source of power] of the heavens and the earth." Unquote. Quran 24:35

> Quote, "And ˹remember˺ when your Rub proclaimed, 'If you are grateful, I will certainly give you more. But if you are ungrateful, surely My punishment is severe.'" Quran. 14:7

Going further, Rub ul Alameen Has made each of us interdependent on each other in our chores and ordained to be thankful to each other.

> Quote, “Is there any reward for goodness [favor] except goodness [gratitude]?” Unquote. Quran 55:60

Conclusion

Habit of gratitude makes people acknowledge their Rub’s favors unto them and their interdependence on each other in this life. Thus, on the one hand it helps develop a realistic view of themselves; their lives; and what they have earned. On the other hand, it creates a harmonious and acknowledging relationships amongst people thus ensuring peace and avoiding conflicts.

So let us start living with gratitude to Allah Almighty and each other for a better life here and hereafter.

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Beware of Toxic Habits!
Suspicion | Stalking | Backbiting

Many a times we unknowingly develop habits that destroy not only our lives but badly affect others too. Suspicion, stalking and backbiting are common toxic habits these days. Some are ignorant of their habits while others develop these out of their wickedness and jealousy for others.

Quran sets the boundaries…

- ✓ O' believers! Avoid many suspicions, ˹for˺ indeed, some suspicions are sinful. And do not spy, nor backbite one another. Would any of you like to eat the flesh of their dead brother? You would despise that! And fear Allah. Surely Allah is ˹the˺ Accepter of Repentance, Most Merciful. Quran. 49:12
- ✓ And when the messengers despaired and their people thought [suspected] the messengers had been denied help [from Allah], Our help came to them ˹at last˺. We then saved whoever We willed, and Our punishment is never averted from the wicked people. Quran.12:110
- ✓ If only the believing men and women had thought well of one another, when you heard this ˹rumor˺, and said, "This is clearly ˹an outrageous˺ slander!" Quran.24:12

Excessive and baseless suspicion, stalking and backbiting all are foe in a relationship. These are nothing short of immoral behavior and worst kinds of slandering. These cause deceptive perceptions, bias, distrust, break relationships, ignite conflicts and often lead to unwarranted actions and decisions.

Paradoxically, when a person or group of persons have these habits of suspicion, stalking and backbiting in a social setting or work place it is often reciprocated by others too, eventually involving everyone.

In the social perspective, such habits often cause breach of others privacy, severing of the Kith and Kin relationships, breaking the fabric of trust and comfort among people and much more. In the work setting or organizational context, such habits promote counter-productive culture of rivalries and politics between employees vs. employees; employees vs. managers; and employees vs. owners thus bringing the harmony to the end.

Generally, in organizations it all begins when the owners or managers undermine employees' sincerity and hard work and begin to suspect and stalk them. Such manages or owners are referred to as "Theory X Type." It essentially encourages managers and owners to suspect and stalk their employees, for they are made to believe that they are dishonest and would not work unless they are treated and handled with excessive pressure from outside. The employees then reciprocate such an orientation towards their managers and owners. Consequently, the psychological contract between the employees and the managers turns totally dysfunctional, stress level increases at the workplace, conflicts arise and rivalries between employees and managers or owners set in for worse.

What are the general remedies to avert developing such habits in the social and work settings. First of all, as per Allah's ultimate wisdom reflected in the above stated verses; -

a. Do not suspect unless you have reasons to do so and have evidence leading to it.
b. When response from another person is delayed do not think he has denied keep your trust on him and hope for the positive.
c. When you see others making allegations on someone, believe not unless you have verifiable evidence suggesting that the person could have been involved.
d. Do not spy people out of your habit, it is nothing but a suspicion.
e. Do not speak ill about another person or persons, even if it is a truth for it means invading someone's privacy. They shall do it with you in return – in Japanese culture, it is a punishable offence at the national level.

Some other remedies that may help avert these habits from developing: -

a. Communicate candidly, clearly and completely.
b. Keep the situation and system transparent.
c. Avoid discussing and judging people.
d. Respect people, their privacy, opinions and choices.

Conclusion: Let's make a better living by living better!

https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/suspicion-stalking-backbiting-alavi-sohailuddin-dz5be

Time is a Blessed Opportunity

Quote, “So, surely with hardship comes ease. Surely with ˹that˺ hardship comes ˹more˺ ease.” Unquote [Quran 94:5-6]. When we struggle and do hard work today, it is very much likely that we will succeed tomorrow. But if we spend our today lavishly, it is a warning that will face hardship tomorrow.

Time spent rightly is time saved and time spent in lavishly is the time lost! Those who invest in their lives at the right time, are the ones who get success. Extravagancy, diversion and misuse of time is a mistake one can do today and bear its losses later. Is “Time Management” all about spending time efficiently: No. Time management is investing time in securing success. Meaning time is given, doing things in the right direction and at the right time is the key to time management.

Here are some divine principles of Managing your Time: -

- ✓ “Indeed, standing in prayer is better than sleeping”, these words are said in Fajir Azaan.

Principle: Choose to do what has more utility

- ✓ “When call for Jumma prayers is made, leave your trading (worldly activities) and go to seek peace and success. Once you are done with your Jumma prayer, spread out to seek Allah's fadal, Surah Jummah.”

Principle: Focus on one task at a time; it does not stop you from doing multi-tasking in a day.

- ✓ “Allah said in Quran, say your mandatory prayers on their scheduled time.”

Principle: Do your task on scheduled date and time and do not procrastinate.

In our routine work and personal lives, we often find ourselves stuck with lots and lots of work which is impossible to execute in given time. One way to handle the situation is by doing the following: -

a. Cluster the tasks into “Must be”, “May be”, and “No Worries”.

“Must be” are essentially tasks that only you should execute.

“May be” are the tasks that anyone can do.

“No Worries” are the tasks that if not executed, won’t make a big difference.

b. Plan and prioritize “Must be” tasks religiously. There is no room for procrastination on these tasks.

“Solving critical problems, making important decisions, listening attentively are a few examples.”

c. Proactively look for opportunities to delegate “May be” tasks to someone else. It is important to get few things done, it is not necessary that only you should do it. It is crucial to avoid micro-management.

“Executing routine tasks, solving routine problems and making standard operating decisions are a few examples.”

d. Trash tasks that are being executed for a long time but have no objective value underneath. Here it is important to say no to tasks that are nothing but rituals.

“Late sittings in routine, unplanned meetings, lengthy and futile discussions, long telephone conversations, ceremonial visits are a few examples.”

Optimizing Time through Rationalizing Tasks

Often. we find ourselves stuck with lots and lots of work which is impossible to execute in given time. One way to handle the situation is by doing the following: -

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   “Must be” are essentially tasks that only you should execute.
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   i. Solving critical problems, making important decisions, listening to employees are a few examples.

c. Proactively look for opportunities to delegate “May be” tasks to someone else. It is important to get few things done, it is not necessary that only you should do it. It is crucial to avoid micro-management.
   i. Executing routine tasks, solving routine problems and making standard operating decisions are a few examples.

d. Trash tasks that are being executed since long time but have no objective value underneath. Here it is important to say no to tasks that are nothing but rituals.
   i. Late sittings in routine, unplanned meetings, lengthy and futile discussions, long telephone conversations, ceremonial visits are a few examples.

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Status Incongruence: A deterrence to harmony

Family relations who live in harmony amongst themselves are happier and cohesive. Societies and organizations are no exceptions. Organizations perform at their peak when there is harmony amongst various individuals and groups, constituting the whole. What harmony exactly means and what deters it, is the focus of this blog.

Harmony in its general perspective essentially means agreement by all on beliefs, purpose, and relationships within an entity. In organizational context in particular, harmony can be explained as acceptance and recognition of common values, directions and more importantly reciprocal roles of each other.

When individuals de-track from accepting their reciprocal roles and begin to become prideful of their respective backgrounds, positions, affiliations etc. vis-à-vis others' persons and begin to compete within, the harmony is grossly detracted sometime beyond repair. This situation is typically referred to as "Status Incongruence".

Status incongruence is a syndrome. Of the many ill fates of it is that the person or persons out of their pride end up blocking their minds – *hear but do not listen* – and take competing positions – *I am ok, you are not ok*. Often the end result is that they continue living in denial, even if their views are completely absurd and ill fated – *EGO matters!*

Similar syndrome is evident in our social, political and even faith related aspects, which leads to serious conflicts and grave consequences many a times.

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The Art of Teaching

Quote, “[Allah] He is the One Who sends down clear revelations to His servant to bring you out of darkness and into light. For indeed Allah is Ever Gracious and Most Merciful to you.” Unquote. Quran. 57:9

Quote, “You surely cannot guide whoever you like ˹O Prophet˺, but it is Allah Who guides whoever He wills, and He knows best who are ˹fit to be˺ guided.” Unquote. Quran 28:56

Quote, “Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good instruction, and reason with them in a way that is best (when it is useful). Indeed, your Lord is most knowing of who has strayed from His way, and He is most knowing of who is [rightly] guided. Unquote. Quran 16:125

Teaching is a noble activity, always cherish it! It brings people out of ignorance into knowing; from illiteracy into being literate; from lost into guided; etc.

Keep teaching and never get despondent when someone rejects your teaching – you cannot teach everyone, but only the ones who bring open hearts and minds to accept and understand.

Teach with wisdom and reasoning that make them understand. Nevertheless, those with a biased attitude will keep rejecting you so leave aside.

Teach to create learning…

Teach with a mission

i. Remember blessed are the teachers – so always cherish your role.
ii. Always have a clear purpose in your mind.

Follow natural learning trajectory: acceptance, reasoning and understanding:

i. Describe the facts, ideas or concepts in a straight way and encourage them to accept. Those with a clean heart and mind will accept or submit to it. People with a biased attitude would simply reject it.
ii. Pick up the ones who have accepted your message and reassure them with good reasoning. Those who reject in the first place would never pay heed to your reasoning, no matter how good the reason is.
iii. Coach them to build deeper understanding – apply experiential learning.

Conclusion

Be passionate of your teaching career; encourage your audience to bring a clean heart and mind; give good reasoning but only after they have accepted your message. Use experiential learning to develop deeper understanding. Finally, do not waste time on arguing with the rebellious. You are not responsible if they do not learn.

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Thank you for reading